

Application No. 09/604,352
Response to Office Action

Customer No. 01933

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

THE CLAIMS

Claim 1 has been amended to clarify the feature of the present invention whereby the information specific to a user stored by a first storing part includes information specific to the information appliance, and whereby the authorization part authorizes the user by collating information from the radio communication terminal read by the radio communication part with the information specific to the user of the information appliance including the information specific to the information appliance stored in the first storing part, as supported by the disclosure in the specification at, for example, page 34, line 27, to page 36, line 13.

In addition, claim 1 has been amended to clarify that a second storing part stores predetermined information specific to the user, and that the transmission part receives a radio signal transmitted from the information appliance and transmits, as a radio signal, the predetermined information specific to the user stored in the second storing part.

Still further, claim 34 has also been amended to clarify that the transmission part receives a radio signal transmitted

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from the information appliance and transmits, as a radio signal, the predetermined information stored in the first storing part.

Claim 33, moreover, has been canceled without prejudice.

No new matter has been added, and it is respectfully submitted that no new issues have been raised which require further consideration on the merits and/or a new search. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the amendments to the claims be approved and entered under 37 CFR 1.116.

THE PRIOR ART REJECTION

Claims 1, 4, 20-21, 23-28 and 30-36 were rejected under 35 USC 102 as being anticipated by newly cited USP 6,431,439 ("Suer et al") and claims 2-3, 22, 29 and 37 were rejected under 35 USC 103 as being obvious in view of Suer et al and newly cited USP 6,021,324 ("Sizer II et al"). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

According to the present invention as recited in amended independent claim 1, an information appliance is provided which collates information obtained from a radio communication terminal with information specific to a user including information specific to the information appliance (such as a device serial number) in authorizing the user to use the device. An example of "information specific to the information appliance" is the serial number of a camera as described in the specification on page 34,

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line 27 to page 36, line 13. (See also Fig. 8.) As described in the specification, by including such a serial number of an information appliance, a plurality of information appliances can be managed individually.

It is respectfully submitted that the above described structural features and advantageous effects of the present invention as recited in amended claim 1 are not disclosed, taught or suggested by either Suer et al and Sizer II et al.

In item 3 on pages 2-3 of the Office Final Action, the Examiner asserts that the portable, hand-held device of Suer et al (column 6, lines 38-43) corresponds to the radio communication terminal of the present invention as recited in claim 1. In addition, the Examiner asserts that the ATM terminals and host PC of Suer et al (column 6, lines 37-48) correspond to the information appliance of the present invention as recited in claim 1.

It is respectfully pointed out, however, that the hand-held device of Suer et al can access any ATM and any host PC, provided the user can log in to that host PC, whereas the authorization part of the information appliance of the present invention as recited in amended claim 1 collates information from the radio communication terminal with the information specific to the user including the information specific to the information appliance.

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By contrast, the ATM of Suer et al does not collate information obtained from the hand-held device with an ATM specific information such as a serial production number of the ATM. In addition, the host PC in Suer et al does not check whether the information sent from the hand-held device contains the correct serial number of the host PC.

Still further, it is respectfully pointed out that Sizer II et al was merely cited for the disclosure of a portable telephone for controlling a home or office (non-information) appliance.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the present invention as recited in amended claim 1, as well as each of claims 2-4 and 20-32 depending therefrom, clearly patentably distinguishes over Suer et al and Sizer II et al, taken singly or in combination under 35 USC 102 as well as under 35 USC 103.

According to the present invention as recited in independent claim 34, moreover, a controller controls the authorization part such that registration and de-registration of an appliance user as a user of the information appliance by the authorization part can be performed only when a predetermined appliance user is authorized by the authorization part.

On pages 9-10 of the Final Office Action, the Examiner asserts that Suer et al discloses at column 7, lines 1-26 a controller corresponding to the controller of the present

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invention as recited in claim 34. In particular, the Examiner asserts that "the ATM and PC contain means to input information regarding the user and are also able to receive data through RF or IR means; this, in turn, corresponds to allowing the user get [sic] through the ATM or PC system in order to access either after verification of the user's registration."

It is respectfully submitted, however, that this disclosure in Suer et al does not at all correspond to the restriction of registration or de-registration of information appliance users by a predetermined user, as according to the present invention as recited in independent claim 34.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the present invention as recited in independent claim 34, as well as each of claims 35-37 depending therefrom, also clearly patentably distinguishes over Suer et al and Sizer II et al, taken singly or in combination under 35 USC 102 as well as under 35 USC 103.

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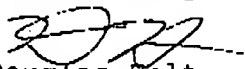
In view of the foregoing, entry of this Amendment, allowance of the claims and the passing of this application to issue are respectfully solicited.

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If the Examiner has any comments, questions, objections or recommendations, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the telephone number given below for prompt action.

Respectfully submitted,


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